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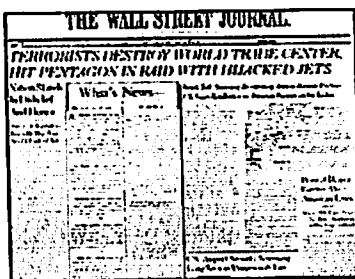
Duxbury Man Shares in Pulitzer Prize for WSJ Sept 11 Coverage

By PAULA MAXWELL

A page two story in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal* carries great significance for Duxbury native David Armstrong whose coverage of the events of Sept. 11 helped earn the newspaper the Pulitzer Prize, journalism's highest honor.

The article announcing the staff award in the category of breaking news reporting said the Pulitzer Committee recognized the newspaper staff for "its comprehensive and insightful coverage, executed under the most difficult circumstances."

Contacted yesterday, the 38-year old veteran reporter said,



"I like writing about others. I'm not used to having something written about me."

Of the event that inspired the coverage he said, "In some respects it doesn't seem real... Hopefully it is a story we won't see again in our lifetime."

He said he shares in a piece of the award as a member of the Wall Street Journal's Boston

bureau. The newspaper's entry included six or seven stories on page one. "I happened to have a page one byline" he said, referring to one of the stories involving airport security which appeared in the Sept 12 issue.

"We were the first paper to say these guys were actually flagged by security. We did a lot of background work on the terrorists," he said. Armstrong was also among the reporters who followed up in Florida investigative reports unveiling information of terrorist connections in that state. They chased leads for over four months following the tragedy, he said.

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Of the Pulitzer submission, Armstrong said each newspaper is limited to the number of stories entered.

A member of the *Wall Street Journal's* Boston bureau for the past year and a half, Armstrong said the award was particularly gratifying to the staff.

"The *Journal* offices in New York had to be evacuated because of the collapse of the trade center Sept. 11. We were trying to put out a paper in an emergency facility in New Jersey," he said.

The *Journal* has more reporters working out of New York than in it, which was a benefit, he said. "We were able to work unencumbered."

Prior to joining the *Journal* staff, Armstrong worked for the *Boston Globe* for seven years including tenure as an investigative reporter. The 1986 Syracuse University graduate spent his early years in the field of journalism at the *Boston Herald* where he worked for five years. Prior to that he worked at the *Brockton Enterprise* and the *Syracuse Herald Journal*.

At the *Journal*, Armstrong has written about the excesses of technology company executives, the mistreatment of handicapped passengers by the airline industry, and the biotechnology industry.

While a member of the *Globe* staff, he wrote several investigative series, including reports on dangerous flaws in the regulation of elevators and escalators; the breakdown in the system for disciplining police officers, which results in officers fired for misconduct winning their jobs back; and stories documenting discrimination and spending abuses at the Boston Fire Department.

Armstrong, who was named

the best reporter in Boston by *Boston Magazine*, has won several awards including the Polk Award, the Investigators Reporters and Editors Award, and the Associated Press award for enterprise reporting.

Armstrong is a lecturer at Boston University, teaching a course in advanced computer research techniques for journalists.

Armstrong and his wife, Julie, also a Duxbury native, have three children ages 2, 5, and 8 and plan to soon relocate to another home in Duxbury from their Mayflower Street residence.

He said, "It's funny. When I was a kid we'd complain about how there was nothing to do in Duxbury. But I see more and more kids I grew up with returning to live here with their families. It's a really great place for a kid to grow up."

Armstrong mentioned the beach, the schools, the addition of the South Shore Conservatory's Ellison Center among the reasons. He recalled taking trumpet lessons when they used to be taught in the basement of the First Parish Church.

Armstrong will be honored along with colleagues at a Pulitzer Prize winners award ceremony.

According to the *Journal* article, the awards carry a prize of \$7,500 except the public service award for which the winning newspaper receives a gold medal.

Armstrong said the staff will likely split the award.

As a reporter, he said he will never forget the events of Sept. 11: "It is so unimaginable that this could happen. I remember later that day taking the water shuttle back from Logan. It was a spectacularly beautiful day. So serene. Boston was empty."